



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Michael V. Drake, MD
President

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DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE AND
NATURAL RESOURCES

July 2, 2025

CHANCELLORS

Dear Colleagues:

Upholding the values of freedom of speech and inquiry are core commitments of the University of California. Members of the University community have the right to express their views on matters of public importance. In addition, University policies provide mechanisms for groups such as academic campus units and student governments to take public positions on issues ([Regents Policy 4408](#); [PACAOS 63.00](#)).

University policies also require that financial and business decisions be grounded in sound business practices including competitive bidding ([BFB-BUS-43 Purchases of Goods and Services; Supply Chain Management](#)). This principle also applies to student governments, where University policy provides that “any financial and business activity under the control of student governments is operated in accordance with sound business practices and is consistent with legal requirements and University policies and procedures” ([PACAOS 67.00](#)). Actions by University entities to implement boycotts of companies based on their association with a particular country would not align with these sound business practices.

The right of individuals and groups to express their views on public matters is distinct from the responsibility of University entities to conduct their financial affairs in a manner consistent with University policy and applicable law.ⁱ This letter reaffirms both: the rights of students, faculty, and staff to express their views, and the University’s obligation to ensure that its units do not engage in financial boycotts of companies associated with a particular country.

Sincerely,

Michael V. Drake, MD
President

cc: Division Leaders

ⁱ [https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/press-room/university-california-statement-divestment; UC Chancellors Statement on Israeli Academic Boycott \(Dec. 2018\)](https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/press-room/university-california-statement-divestment; UC Chancellors Statement on Israeli Academic Boycott (Dec. 2018)).